Newsletter of the Belgian Cooperation in Rwanda March 2024



Investing in women



Thanks to the contributors of this newsletter:























Content

This is a special edition of the newsletter at the Highlights of the past few months occasion of International Women's Day 2024. Belgium and Rwanda sign new bilateral cooperation programme The theme this year is "Invest in Women: **p.3** Accelerate Progress". That is exactly the vision Visit of DGD Heidy Rombouts **p.3** which the different partners of the Belgian RKV: Launch of humanitarian protection project **p.4** development cooperation in Rwanda are putting in practice. Our cooperation agency Enabel, the LFTW: School screening for eye disease **p.4** Belgian NGOs and our multilateral partners all Gender equality - women empowerment have a specific focus on gender equality and women empowerment. In this newsletter, we put Bilateral: From GBV victims to integrated employees **p.5** the spotlight on the inspiring women they Bilateral: Empowering women in cross-border trade **p.6** accompany through their multiple partnerships. Bilateral: Educate a women, serve a community **p.6** Of course, we also feature the main highlights of Bilateral: The farming expedition of Peace **p.**7 the past three months. At the Embassy, we started the year with the signature of the new Enabel: Women-led forest landscape restoration **p.**7 EUR 95 million 5-year bilateral cooperation Aegis: Embracing positive masculinity **p.8** program that will run from 2024 to 2029. It HI: The mental health of a pregnant women **p.9** signals the renewal of the joint commitment of the Belgian and Rwandan governments as 11.11.11: An alternative approach for gender equality partners for sustainable development. and the fight against GBV **p.9** We look forward to the journey ahead. VSF: Empowering women veterinarians p.10 WSM: Gender equality at CEFOTRAR training center p.10 Happy International Women's Day to all! APEFE: Empowering young women p.11 Bert Versmessen IOM: The story of Nicaise, Rwandan diaspora p.12 Ambassador



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Welcome



Belgium and Rwanda sign EUR 95 million bilateral cooperation program



Rwandan Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Dr. Uzziel Ndagijimana, and DGD Heidy Rombouts at the signing ceremony.

On 30 January 2024, Belgium and Rwanda signed a new bilateral cooperation agreement that will run from July 2024 to June 2029. Enabel, the Belgian cooperation agency, will implement the program in close partnership with Rwandan government authorities and other stakeholders. It builds on the achievements of the ongoing cooperation program, due to end this June.

In **health**, the ambition remains to improve quality healthcare for all through health system strengthening. It couples the existing results-based financing modality with an innovative mechanism to support evidence-based decision-making. A particular focus remains on sexual and reproductive health and the fight against gender-based violence.

In **agriculture**, it aims to increase access to and the consumption of quality food through food system transformation. Work on pork and poultry will continue, with support to the value chains of rabbits and bee-keeping as new additions.

In **urbanisation**, the program will support the development of sustainable, inclusive, climate-proof and attractive satellite cities. Interventions focus on Rwamagana and Nyamata.

The program attaches cross-cutting importance to **good governance** and **gender**. This includes a specific contribution to **public finance management**. As it will contribute directly to various Team Europe Initiatives, it foresees close coordination with the different EU partners.

Visit of DGD Heidy Rombouts

Director-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs Dr. Heidy Rombouts travelled to Rwanda to sign the new agreement. She started her four-day visit by paying tribute to the victims of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi at the Kigali Genocide memorial, as well as at the memorial for the Belgian peace-keepers. She also visited various projects supported through the Belgian cooperation and held in-depth exchanges with the Rwandan authorities, including the Minister of Health, and partners such as the UN Resident Coordinator, Team Europe, and representatives of Belgian and Rwandan civil society.



Meeting with Rwandan Minister of Health, Dr. Sabin Nsanzimana.

RKV - Rwanda Red Cross launches HP2 project

The **Rwanda Red Cross** officially launched the Humanitarian Protection 2 (HP2) project in Karongi on February 14, 2024. HP2 builds on the HP1 initiative that ended in November 2023 and is dedicated to supporting refugees and host communities in Kiziba refugee camp and Nkamira transit camp. The project will run through 2024 and 2025 with support from the Belgian government through the **Belgian Red Cross - Flanders**.

The launch highlighted HP1's positive outcomes, particularly its success in reuniting separated family members, enhancing international humanitarian law training and boosting the livelihood of refugees and host community members. Noteworthy achievements include the renovation of the Health Center at Nyabiheke refugee camp, the provision of two ambulances, the construction of 300 kitchens in Kiziba refugee camp and support to vulnerable households in Kiziba and its host community.

HP2 will continue to focus on core activities of the Red Cross, such as humanitarian protection services, the restoration of family links, the promotion of international humanitarian law and psychological support services. As part of a dynamic humanitarian landscape, the Rwandan Red Cross aims to extend its impact and collaborations with partners such as the Belgian Red Cross (Flanders and Worldvision, speaking community), International, Save the Children, UNHCR, Caritas Rwanda, Humanity & Inclusion (HI), ADRA Rwanda and the Rwanda Ministry in charge of Emergency Management. The Rwanda Red Cross expresses its gratitude for these successful collaborations as they exemplify the transformative impact that can be achieved through collective humanitarian effort.



Group picture at the launch of HP2 in Karongi

For more info, contact Emmanuel Mazimpaka, Head of Communications, Fundraising and Humanitarian Diplomacy Department at Rwanda Red Cross, on emmanuel.mazimpaka@rwandaredcross.org

LFTW - School screening: 7,695 children screened and 1,150 referred for eye care



During the period from October to the end of November 2023, 81 schools located in the Southern Province were visited by an ophthalmic officer to carry out eye tests on children suspected of suffering from eye disease.

One of the focuses of **Light for the World**'s programme in Rwanda is to ensure access to inclusive education for visually impaired children in four districts of the Southern Province (Kamonyi, Muhanga, Rugando, Nyanza). To achieve this objective, school screening is being carried out in 434 schools in the region to identify children with visual impairments.

The campaign was launched on 16 October and coordinated by the Kabgayi diocese's Inclusive Education Team, in collaboration with the Kabgayi Eye Unit (KEU), both partners of Light for the World in Rwanda.

The results are impressive: 7,695 children were examined by an ophthalmic clinical officer (OCO) and 1,150 were referred to the KEU for further diagnosis and specialized treatment.

Medical follow-up will then be provided by the KEU staff for children who need care. Children identified as suffering from visual impairments or refractive errors will be supported by the inclusive education team and will receive individualized educational, medical and psychosocial assistance to ensure quality in their schooling.



For more info, check www.lightfortheworld.be

Bilateral cooperation - From victims of gender-based violence to integrated employees



Gender-based violence (GBV) is a form of harm directed at an individual based on their gender. It includes physical, sexual, emotional, or social harm. According to the United Nations, it is a severe violation of human rights and a lifethreatening health and protection issue. The root cause of GBV is gender inequality, the abuse of power, and harmful norms.

Although there are solid policies and legal frameworks in place to combat GBV in Rwanda, the number of cases continues to increase. According to the Rwanda Demographic Health Survey (RDHS) 2019-2020 report, the percentage of women experiencing physical violence rose from 35% in 2014-15 to 37% in 2019-20. Similarly, spousal violence increased from 40% in 2015 to 46% in 2020.

Victims often struggle to report violence or defilement (child rape), especially when intimate partners or close family members perpetrate it, mainly due to the lack of economic independence. This also contributes to a low level of social reintegration of the victims.

To address these issues, **Enabel's Barame project**, part of the health component of the bilateral Belgian-Rwandan cooperation programme, supported a comprehensive approach that addresses stigma in seeking justice, promotes the social reintegration of victims of sexual and gender-

based violence and entails awareness raising and training. The activities took place over three years in seven districts of Rwanda.

For the social reintegration of the victims the focus was on economic empowerment. Identified victims were supported in financial literacy, trained in entrepreneurial skills through the "be your own boss"-approach, initiated in saving and credit schemes, supported with small income generating activities and linked to informal job opportunities in their communities. As a result, 140 saving and internal lending communities (SILC) groups were formed. Savings of their 13,864 members, including 13,279 women, reached RWF 43,007,979. Together, 561 victims borrowed RWF 10,862,800 for income-generating activities such as setting up and owning boutiques, hair-dressing salons, and tailoring spaces, as well as growing crops and raising livestock.

The program also built GBV alliances and stakeholder partnerships to coordinate efforts. Together with GIZ Rwanda, 1726 GBV victims (1,562 women and 164 men) received technical training in tea plucking and processing. This led to permanent employment in local tea factories. This holistic approach has transformed victims into integrated employees, significantly impacting their lives, households and the community at large.

Bilateral cooperation - Empowering Women in cross-border trade for Decent Work and Social Protection

Through the thematic portfolio for Social Protection and Decent Work in Central Africa, the Government of Rwanda, with support from the Kingdom of Belgium, committed to promote gender equality and economic empowerment of women. The programme is implemented by **Enabel**, in partnership with government entities, civil society organizations and private sector actors. The programme actively promotes job creation, access to employment and better working conditions, targeting at least 50% of women.

In partnership with Pro-Femmes Twese Hamwe (PFTH), an umbrella organization aimed at advancing the status of women, Enabel is implementing interventions targeting the social and economic welfare of women in five districts along the Kivu belt. The aim is to address both economic and social challenges faced by these women. Through self-employment, they enhance their capacity to generate reasonable incomes and assets that match the needs of their family welfare and protection.

Kankesha Claudine, mother of four, and active member of a women's cooperative 'Mugore - Mukobwa Tuzamurane Kigeyo', testifies: "Through training we learnt to identify profitable business opportunities. This has enabled us to pay for medical insurance for my family. Our hard work and teamwork are leading us to more success in the future."

Pro-Femmes and Enabel anticipate that by the end of 2026, the supported women will have better sources of income. This will allow them to acquire assets such as land and residential houses, as well as access social protection schemes for health insurance (*mutuelles de santé*) and pension (Ejo Heza). They will also have better access to hygiene, sanitation and electricity, and, most importantly, will be able to feed their families well and send their children to schools of their choices.



Kankesha Claudine

Bilateral cooperation - Pauline's workbench: Educate a woman, serve the community



In Musanze District, **Enabel**'s Belgium-funded **Urban Economic Development initiative (UEDi)** has been a catalyst for women empowerment. Pauline Hagenimana's journey into the world of carpentry, a domain traditionally dominated by men, showcases the transformative potential of vocational training.

After completing a dual training program in carpentry, Pauline established a work bench at her home. She uses it to produce wooden furniture. This has helped her to support her family's education and improve their living standards. It is a testament to the empowerment that comes with skills acquisition. "In our family, we are five children. We never used to have sitting room furniture at home, so I make it myself. Now, just after completing the training in carpentry, I can help in paying my siblings' school fees."

The ripple effects of her achievements are palpable within her community. Pauline is inspiring other women and girls to pursue their dreams and challenge the confines of traditional gender roles. It is a shift that is crucial not only for individual women but for the broader socio-economic development of the Musanze District and beyond.

The story of Pauline Hagenimana and the UEDi project shows that vocational training constitutes a sustainable pathway to gender equality, poverty reduction and inclusive economic growth. Dual training graduates under the program achieved an impressive 86% employment rate. 61% of those who found employment are female, challenging traditional employment narratives. It is a powerful call to action for continued investment in women's vocational training.

Bilateral cooperation - Ntarama Pigs Farm: the farming expedition of Peace Niyoyita

The agriculture component of the Belgian-Rwandan cooperation programme has been instrumental in transforming pig farming in Rwanda. **Enabel**'s intervention addresses the insufficiency of exotic pig breeds, whilst also boosting productivity and profitability for pig farmers like Peace Niyoyita.

Peace's journey began in 2017 as a small producer with 10 pigs. Today, she is the proud owner of Ntarama Pigs Farm, a medium-scale operation in Bugesera District. Her farm accommodates one of seven pig breeding centres. It was established in 2022 in a partnership between Enabel and the Rwanda Agriculture Board (RAB). With 200 doses of semen per month, the centre plays a crucial role in supplying high-quality pig semen to farmers in the district and beyond.

In 2023, Niyoyita benefited from Enabel's Business Development Services training, conducted with the National Industrial Research and Development Agency (NIRDA). It equipped her with the financial management and business planning skills that were necessary to scale up her business and make a real difference in her community. Now, the farm is also a hub for sourcing top-quality piglets and fattening pigs for slaughter.

Niyoyita's journey is a powerful example of how women in agriculture can lead to broader social and economic transformation: "I conduct field visits to over 500 individuals annually, assisting them as they commence their journey into professional breeding. These efforts have resulted in permanent employment for eight staff members and over 100 individuals each season. We empower women in our community by training them to raise pigs, fostering their development and growth. In the future, I aspire to establish a small factory and distribute high-quality pork products to the Rwandan market and beyond!"



Niyoyita giving pigs to women on International Women's Day 2023

Enabel - Women-led forest landscape restoration



Providence Nyirabagande (9th clockwise) during a visit of Members of Parliament

Providence Nyirabagande is a female Private Forest Management Unit (PFMU) leader in Kirehe District, Eastern Province. The PFMU cooperatives are established by **Enabel** in partnership with the Rwanda Forestry Authority and other stakeholders under the **TREPA project**, "Transforming Eastern Province through Adaptation". The project is financed by the **Green Climate Fund**.

Nyirabagande and her team of 262 members, the majority (51%) of whom are women, embarked on landscape restoration. Guided by a Memorandum of Understanding with Enabel and the Rwanda Forestry Authority, they consolidated degraded woodlots into a 132-hectare area. The cooperative achieved a remarkable tree survival rate of more than 90%, showcasing the potential of agroforestry.

Nyirabagande highlights the income generated from afforestation, the establishment of a forest or stand of trees in an area where there was no recent tree cover, as it contributed to household needs and fostered community resilience. After these successes, Nyirabagande is already looking into the future: "I am optimistic that the skills we have learned will enable us to apply the same practices on other farms. We're starting different value chains to improve our incomes. This will help us meet our basic needs and become more resilient as we wait for the production from restored forests."

Nyirabagande's story underscores the transformative impact of inclusive forest landscape restoration, an initiative in which women can and do play a leading role.

Aegis Trust - Embracing Positive Masculinity Celebrating gender champions in redefining manhood



Aegis Trust, in its journey of building a more peaceful society, continues to advance gender equality and women empowerment through the Belgian-funded project "Promoting positive masculinities attitudes and behaviours change through education, dialogue, and civil society capacity-building". The initiative aims to eradicate gender-based violence and promote attitudes and practices that build gender equality in homes, schools, workplaces and places of worship.

Over 3,000 individuals from government agencies, civil society organizations, faith- and religion-based organizations, parents, media and cooperatives have received capacity-building across the districts of Gasabo, Huye, Kicukiro, Nyagatare and Nyarugenge. Throughout this journey, numerous outstanding individuals and institutions

have actively contributed to this transformative movement.

In March 2024, a month dedicated to women and girls under the theme "Redefining Manhood: Embracing Positive Masculinity", Aeais Trust will award fifty "aender champions". These individuals have demonstrated exceptional dedication to positive masculinities and gender equity. "The award will not only celebrate accomplishments of these champions", savs Uwamwiza, Aegis' gender expert, "it will also serve as a call to action for others to adopt positive male behaviours, attitudes, and values within their communities".

For more info, contact Carine M. Rutari, Communications Coordinator, on <u>Carine.rutari@aegistrust.org.rw</u>





Participants to the Aegis training on Promoting Positive Masculinities.

HI - The mental health of a pregnant woman is essential to early child development

In November 2023, 87 health professionals - midwives, psychologists and mental health nurses - from 45 hospitals in Rwanda met in Kigali. They shared professional practices on the management of mental health issues related to pregnancy and childbirth. The event was organized by **Humanity & Inclusion (HI)** in collaboration with Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC), as part of the Belgian-funded Nurturing Care (NC) project.

One of the pillars of the NC project is mother-child health, with a focus on the mother's mental health well-being. The project's mandate is to strengthen health professionals to support pregnant mothers suffering from depression in the prenatal and postnatal period. In her opening remarks, the representative of RBC highlighted that "perinatal depression affects 10 to 20% of pregnant mothers. There is a need for healthcare professionals to share their experience".

During the sharing sessions, the health professionals from different health facilities supported by HI testified about the results of their work. Thanks to training in the integration of mental health services into the maternity wards, 88 pregnant women suspected of suffering from mental health problems had been identified in 29 health facilities. Among them, 44 women were confirmed as experiencing perinatal depression and have benefited from psychosocial support.

At the end of the event, based on the experiences shared, participants identified the strategies and practices they will implement in their respective hospitals.



Psychologist, mental health nurses and midwives from 45 hospitals in Rwanda, took part in the event.

For more info, contact Gisèle Bankundiye, senior project manager, on <u>g.bankundiye@hi.org</u>

11.11.11 - Bonne Puissance: an alternative approach for gender equality and the fight against GBV



Group photo after the workshop

11.11.11 partners with civil society organisations from Burundi, the DR Congo and Rwanda to promote human rights through civic engagement, citizen participation and gender equality promotion. In Rwanda, the partners are Pro-Femmes/Twese Hamwe (PFTH), PAX PRESS and Association Modeste & Innocent (AMI).

Bonne Puissance or "Good Power" is the cross cutting theme inspiring all interventions. Building on the Ubuntu philosophy, the theory and practice of Bonne Puissance call everyone to become aware of their identity and that of their peers in mutual respect and human dignity. It consists of creating a living space around us, attracting similarities beyond our differences. It thus reflects a shift of mentality and paradigm in the analysis of social reality, aiming to create a society where everyone finds a place to be, to do, to have and to share.

On 21st November 2023, PFTH organized a workshop with its member organisations to share experiences on the approach since its inception in 2022. The participants concluded that the *Bonne Puissance* approach fits well in gender analysis, gender transformative interventions, women participation and empowerment. It also applies at individual and collective levels, as it awakens the consciousness of a critical mass of citizens beyond the ideas causing violence. Hence, at the end of the workshop, the participants decided to establish an ad hoc coalition of six organisations. The core team will work closely with AMI, custodian of the *Bonne Puissance* approach, on gender equality promotion.

VSF-B - Empowering women veterinarians

In recent years, Rwanda has made significant strides in promoting gender equality and equity across various sectors. In the veterinary field however, challenges persists. **Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Belgium (VSF-B)**, with DGD and Enabel support, has played a pivotal role in enhancing quality veterinary services. In this work, there is a focus on the empowerment of women: of the 114 veterinarians and veterinary technicians strengthened by VSF-B, 25 (22%) are women.

These women, such as Elisabeth Mukanyitsitso from Mushubi sector in Nyamagabe District in the Southern Province, have undergone training and received essential resources. This has led to a substantial increase in their service provision and income. Elisabeth's testimony reflects a transformative impact. Her monthly services expanded from 25 to over 360, her annual turnover rose from RWF 650,000 to RWF 22,000,000 and her regular monthly salary evolved from RWF 30,000 to more than RWF 300,000. This newfound economic independence and professional recognition have empowered her to significantly contribute to improving animal production and community welfare, while promoting One Health principles.

VSF-B's support has not only bolstered individual success stories. It has also paved the way for greater gender inclusivity within the veterinary sector. By creating an enabling environment for women to thrive, VSF-B is advancing gender equality and harnessing the potential of female veterinarians as key actors in rural development. Elisabeth encourages her female colleagues to seize opportunities and overcome challenges. VSF-B remains committed to fostering gender parity and enhancing veterinary services for the benefit of all.



Elisabeth at work, conducting field visits

For more info, contact VSF-Belgium on info@vsf-belgium.org or contact Désiré Bimenyiamana on +250 788 481 500

WSM - Gender equality at CEFOTRAR training center



CEFOTRAR, "Training Center for Rwandan Workers", is located in Kimisagara, Nyarugenge District of Kigali City. It is a partner to Belgian NGO **We Social Movements (WSM)** and a member organization of the **INSP!R Zamuka network** for decent work and social protection.

CEFOTRAR provides short professional courses to young girls and boys without degree. The youth is trained in masonry, welding, woodwork, sewing, shoemaking, hairdressing and beauty care. There are also additional courses in entrepreneurship, marketing and labour law standards as well as disciplinary and moral principles that are likely to lead to success in life.

Boys and girls are together in classes and during the trainings. However the CEFOTRAR trainers have realized during the application periods that both girls and boys considered some professions to be gender-fitted to girls (sewing, hairdressing and beauty care) and others to boys (masonry, welding, woodwork). They decided to change things. Every young man or girl has to understand that a profession is not a matter of gender. The choice must be based on talent, opportunities of jobs or consumers in the future area of work.

CEFOTRAR elaborated a sensitization program, created gender clubs and nominated a gender focal person. The results are obvious. In 2014, only 3,5% of girls were registered in masonry. Three years later, they were 26%. Today, the percentage of girls registered to masonry, welding, woodwork and shoemaking is around 32%. The same trend has happened for boys in professions that were initially girl gendered.

For more info, contact CEFOTRAR Manager on 0788411428 or visit www.insp!r.global

APEFE - Empowering young women through education: a story of confidence and leadership



When financial constraints hinder access to basic needs, individuals often grapple with profound self-esteem issues and self-doubt. This particularly impacts vulnerable women with limited access to resources.

The *Igira Ku Murimo Uhange Akazi* programme, implemented by **APEFE Rwanda** and the Ministry of Labour and Public Service (MIFOTRA), financed by the Belgian Cooperation, extends beyond imparting skills. It also partners with Resonate, a local organization focusing on women leadership to boost the confidence of young women. The programme specifically targets 60% of young women and 10% of individuals with disabilities. Persons living with disability are often overlooked in their contribution to the social economy.

Kezia Ahishakiye, a participant in the second cohort of the 2023-2024 dual training program however defies societal norms. After a Resonate training session named "self-confidence", she gained the confidence to share her story: "This is the first time in my life that I've spoken in front of people. I wasn't sure if I was ready for it. I aspire to encourage people with disabilities to embrace confidence in themselves. Thank you for providing us with such a training!"

APEFE Rwanda, in collaboration with Resonate, believes that equipping young women with leadership skills will nurture them into future leaders. The program provided leadership and goal-setting training to 279 young women apprentices from technical secondary schools in Gacuriro, Bumbogo, Kabutare, Maraba, Busogo and Gakoni. The aim is now to extend this training to all women apprentices in 8 TVET schools and IPRC Kigali.

For more info, contact Juliette Karitanyi, Communication and E-Learning Expert, on <u>j.karitanyi@apefe.org</u>



IOM - The story of Nicaise: from Rwanda to Amazon... and back

Nicaise, a Rwandan diaspora member, is an example of how the transfer of technical skills can support Rwanda's development. Nicaise's journey began in Algeria, where she received a scholarship from the Government of Rwanda to pursue a bachelor's degree in science and technology. She further pursued her studies in Communications Engineering in Lyon, France, and later worked in Ireland and Seattle, Washington. Currently, she works for Amazon as a Software Quality Assurance Engineer, heading the onboarding of new languages for Alexa.

Under the IOM project "Engaging Rwandan Diaspora to Support the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Sector", funded by the Belgian Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, Nicaise returned to Rwanda to teach mobile application development at Integrated Polytechnic Regional Colleges (IPRCs).

Despite facing challenges such as gender stereotypes and the pay gap, Nicaise's story is one of perseverance. As Co-Founder of SheUps, she helped create a network for female tech leaders to enable meaningful connections and find investment opportunities for their start-ups. She encourages young girls to dream big and contribute to the future of their country and the next generation.



For more info, contact IOM Rwanda Public Information at pir@iom.int

Plan International - Empowering girls in refugee camps



In the refugee camps, girls' empowerment needs are more acute. It is important to foster a supportive and protective environment for children, adolescents and youth, particularly for girls.

In the last two years (2022-2023), youth have been supported and empowered to become agents of change in their communities. 125 boys and 80 girls were trained to become mentors. They promote gender equal relationships as they teach and learn about sexual reproductive health, reflect on gender norms, challenge harmful practices and foster intergenerational dialogues. In turn, they have themselves trained 700 girls and 700 boys, whilst 5,764 girls and 5,344 boys participated in peer-to-peer activities. A survey conducted in June 2023 concluded that the program resulted in promising behavioural changes.

Youth have also been supported through the establishment of 50 saving groups. 724 adolescent girls and 566 adolescent boys were trained on the basic principles of savings, purposeful borrowing, planning, budgeting, problemsolving, entrepreneurship, innovation, conflict resolution, equity, decision making, wealth management, and life goals.

15-year-old Promesse took part in a financial skills training. Afterwards, she says, she and her friends decided to create their own savings group called *The Mirror: "They taught us about saving and how to set smart life goals. I have changed my mindset and become self-confident."* Promesse is still at school, but her mother helps her by contributing to her savings.

These initiatives have been implemented by **Plan International Rwanda**, with the support of the Belgian development cooperation (DGD) through **Plan International Belgium**. This support was recently renewed for two more years (2024-2025).